

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



Reply to Attn of:

July 27, 2004

TO: Distribution

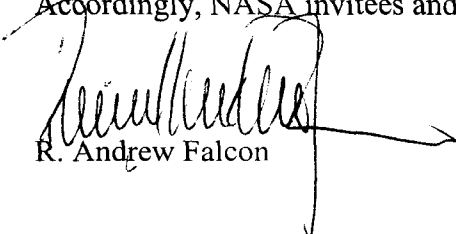
FROM Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at an American University  
Alumni Event on August 31, 2004

American University (AU) will host an alumni event at the Steuben Glass Flagship Store in New York City on Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. I have determined it to be in the best interests of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The event will be widely attended by AU alumni from all walks of life, Deans, and distinguished guests. NASA's Chief Financial Officer, Gwen Sykes, will be recognized at the event for her professional accomplishments and as a distinguished alumni of AU's Key Executive Program. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages is \$40 per person. Approximately 75-100 people are expected to attend the event. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). The event will allow Ms. Sykes to discuss and be recognized for her leadership role in public service at NASA. Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the event without charge.

  
R. Andrew Falcon